

UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT

A compendium of **UNCTAD**
*partnerships and projects with civil society
and the private sector*



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Introduction

UNCTAD's cooperation/engagement with civil society and the private sector: examples of partnerships and projects involving civil society and the private sector

UNCTAD is the principal organ of the General Assembly in the field of trade and development. It was established as a permanent intergovernmental body in 1964 in Geneva, affirming the United Nations General Assembly's conviction that international cooperation in trade and development is vital for world economic growth and the economic development of developing countries. UNCTAD aims to help shape current policy debates and thinking on development, with a particular focus on ensuring that domestic policies and international action are mutually supportive in bringing about sustainable development.

UNCTAD and its 192 member States work on three levels: (i) building consensus on trade and development issues; (ii) carrying out research into how trade and development can be accomplished; and (iii) providing technical assistance tailored to the specific needs of developing countries to help them achieve stable trade expansion and economic growth.

A knowledge-based institution at the service of development and deeply involved in capacity-building, UNCTAD seeks and needs partnerships to enrich its analysis, research, consensus-building and operational work in order to achieve its mandate. UNCTAD has developed cooperation arrangements with civil society (including NGOs, trade unions, academia, business associations), parliamentarians and the private sector in development-oriented research and technical cooperation in areas affecting international trade.

For specific operational projects, UNCTAD's divisions and programmes work directly and in partnership with private sector actors. UNCTAD also cooperates closely with several representative associations of parliamentarians. Parliamentarians participate in UNCTAD's events and meetings to exchange views and to discuss issues of concern to the development agenda.

UNCTAD has pursued a policy that allows cooperation with civil society actors by setting up formal and informal mechanisms for the participation of non-state actors in its activities, including participation in conferences, workshops and seminars, producing co-publications, information-sharing and policy analysis through informal exchange of ideas and implementation of technical cooperation programmes.

The following are examples of projects and partnerships involving civil society and the private sector:

Advisory Services on Investment and Training (ASIT) cooperation and relationship with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA)

The Advisory Services on Investment and Training (ASIT) cooperates closely with the World Association of Investment Promotion Agencies (WAIPA), an NGO made up of over 170 investment promotion agencies worldwide. This cooperation, based on a partnership agreement between UNCTAD and WAIPA, is in line with the Partnership for Development Initiative launched at UNCTAD XI in São Paulo in June 2004. Joint training workshops on best practices in investment promotion and investor targeting are organized with a host country institution within the context of ASIT's ongoing technical cooperation programme. Through WAIPA, but also independently, private companies can participate in ASIT workshops and contribute their expertise and perspective to these events. Some partners have also provided logistical support to conferences and other events organized by ASIT and WAIPA.

More information is available online at [www.unctad.org/programmes/Advisory Services on Investment and Training](http://www.unctad.org/programmes/Advisory%20Services%20on%20Investment%20and%20Training).

Private sector and civil society dialogue and capacity building events on investment agreements

In addition to workshops and dialogues on international investment agreements, UNCTAD's work programme on international investment agreements (IIAs) has undertaken several capacity building activities in cooperation with civil society and academic institutions. Training sessions for negotiators of IIAs are organized in cooperation with local universities, which generally host and contribute substantially to the sessions.

In 2004, the joint UNCTAD-CUTS (Consumer Unity and Trust Society of India) project on "Awareness and capacity building for civil society on investment regimes and international investment issues"

was concluded. This DFID-financed project sought to address the need for involvement and capacity building for civil society through the organization of research and subsequent national and regional seminars on issues in IIAs for representatives of civil society. The project was implemented in Bangladesh, Brazil, Hungary, India, South Africa, Tanzania and Zambia. It concluded with a project briefing and a global seminar held on the occasion of the eighth session of UNCTAD's Investment Commission in January 2004.

More information is available online at www.unctad.org/iia

UNCTAD-ICC project on investment guides and capacity-building for LDCs

This project was launched by UNCTAD and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) in 1998. The idea is to help LDCs attract more foreign direct investment (FDI), so that it may contribute to their economic growth and development. The UNCTAD-ICC project works closely with the private sector, both foreign and domestic, as well as with the Government. The resulting investment guides provide reliable information on matters such as the operating environment and the investment climate. They thus serve countries as credible marketing tools in attracting the attention of potential investors.

More information is available online at www.unctad.org/investmentguides or contact investmentguides@unctad.org.

UNCTAD/ICC Investment Advisory Council

The Investment Advisory Council (IAC) provides a framework for high-level consultations between business and government leaders to explore practical ways of attracting increased FDI into developing countries, particularly LDCs. The IAC is a joint initiative by UNCTAD and the International Chamber of Commerce (ICC) and cooperates closely with the Global Compact.

Investment for Development Partnership

The Investment for Development Partnership, launched at UNCTAD XI, is an umbrella programme that enlists the cooperation of national and international organizations to leverage the outreach and impact of UNCTAD's work in the area of investment. It is open-ended and has a flexible structure, which allows UNCTAD to mobilize partners and resources according to the evolving needs of its developing country clients.

Climate change: Trade and investment opportunities under the Kyoto Protocol

In response to the Kyoto Protocol and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), UNCTAD assists developing countries to take advantage of the trade and investment opportunities arising from the Kyoto Protocol, including the Clean Development Mechanism (CDM). UNCTAD provides analytical research and technical cooperation support to interested Governments, the private sector and NGOs interested in engaging in CDM projects. It also prepares sector-specific assessments of CDM investment opportunities. Aside from implementing capacity-building activities in the areas of trade, environment and development, the programme also analyses the trade and investment implications of multilateral environmental agreements.

*More information is available online at www.unctad.org.
(programmes/Climate Change: Carbon Market Programme).*

Development of a global greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions trading system

In response to the Kyoto Protocol and the UNFCCC, UNCTAD provides support to interested Governments, the private sector and NGOs in the development of a plurilateral market for trading in greenhouse gas emission allowances and certified emission reduction credit.

*More information is available online at www.unctad.org.
(programmes/Climate Change: Carbon Market Programme).*

Environmental requirements and market access

UNCTAD recently created a Consultative Task Force (CTF) on Environmental Requirements and Market Access for Developing Countries. The CTF is a multi-stakeholder forum, which analyses trends in new environmental and related health requirements as they impact market access for developing countries. One of the main focuses of CTF discussions is the analysis of environmental requirements set by the private sector and NGOs. The CTF debate therefore involves the advocates of these requirements.

*More information is available online at www.unctad.org.
(programmes/Climate Change: Carbon Market Programme).*

Trade liberalization for environmental goods and services

This subject is one of the negotiating issues of the current Doha Round of trade talks at the WTO. UNCTAD has been assisting developing countries in the negotiations by analysing the role of environmental goods and services in exports and imports of developing countries, as well as the related developmental, social and environmental effects. Current activities are designed to assist developing countries in the development and modelling of national lists of environmental goods that can be tabled at the WTO. In this context, UNCTAD is organizing technical advisory missions and national stakeholder workshops that aim at identifying environmental goods of particular export and import interest to interested developing countries. These workshops also debate defensive interests of developing countries in terms of avoiding unjustified liberalization of imports and the protection of infant national environmental industries.

*More information is available online at
(http://r0.unctad.org/trade_env/test1/openF1.htm)*

Partnership on sustainable economic development and mining

The partnership, aims to work towards developing methods for enhancing the economic development impact of mining in developing countries by disseminating information among all interested parties about experiences, pilot projects, best practices and supportive government policies. It also links previously existing networks on mining established by UNCTAD, including a Latin American network. An African network launched in May 2005 will also be linked. The partnership organizes annual regional workshops and maintains websites serving as discussion fora and vehicles for disseminating information. Partners with operational roles, including those concerned with websites, include the Department for

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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_10228

